

July 16, 1968

Professor Andrei D. Sakharov  
Lebedev's Institute for Physics  
Academy of Sciences  
Moscow B 134, U.S.S.R.

Dear Professor Sakharov:

I am sure you must be aware of the article that appeared in today's New York Times by Raymond H. Anderson, referring to your essay on "Thoughts About Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom". According to that news article your essay is addressed not only to your own fellow citizens, but to "all people of good will in the world". It is in that spirit that I write to you to ask whether it would be possible for you to send me a copy of your essay translated into English, or whether you know of other arrangements that might lead to its publication and wider accessibility. I need hardly tell you that there are many scientists in the United States and elsewhere throughout the world who share your concerns. In fact, I must gloomily suggest one additional hazard, that human civilization faces as a consequence of its contemporary fragmentation, namely, world-wide disease. I need merely refer you to page 1114 in the issue of Nature magazine for June 22 which refers to "vervet monkey disease" to illustrate the kind of hazard that hangs over us at any moment. A more detailed discussion of this outbreak is also to be found in the issue of The Lancet for November 25, 1967. This article, at page 1119, and the editorial at page 1129 give further emphasis to the precarious success of our existing patterns of international cooperation in preventing world-wide disease outbreaks. I do not know whether you will already have called attention to such medical hazards in your own essay, but I trust this reference to them is entirely consonant with the theses that were mentioned in Mr. Anderson's article.

Now that President Johnson and Premier Kosygin have announced their intention to proceed with more intensive negotiations for controlling the arms race, it is more important than ever before that the intellectuals of our various countries re-assert the common cause to which science is dedicated for the benefit of mankind.

If they are of any interest to you, I would be glad to forward some of my own writings on this subject, many of which have appeared as short articles in the Washington Post, where they have some possibility of reaching some of our more influential citizens.

SAKHAROV

Professor Andrei D. Sakharov

July 16, 1968

I note that you have been closely associated with Professor Igor Tamm, and I take this opportunity to inquire about his health, which I hope remains good. He will, I am sure, be able to recall to you the happy circumstances at which we met last.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics